

REMARKS

Consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is requested prior to examination of the above-captioned application.

Claims 1-36 have been canceled in favor of claims 37-55.

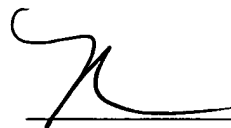
Support for new claims 37-55 can be found throughout the instant case including the drawings and claims as filed originally.

No new matter has been added by virtue of the present Preliminary Amendment.

Early consideration and allowance of the above-captioned application are respectfully requested. Should any fee be needed to consider this submission including any papers attached herewith, the USPTO is authorized to charge our deposit account 04-1105 for such fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 22 JAN 2004



Robert L. Buchanan
Registration No. 40,927
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
P. O. Box 9169
Boston, MA 02209
Tel. (617) 439-4444
Fax Nos. (617) 439-4170 / 7748
Customer No.: 21874